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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66612
DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB: MGJONES/NH
APPROVED BY: NEA: PDCONSTABLE
---------- 059528
R 202352Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249421

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 9673 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KARACHI AND LAHORE 18 OCT 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9673

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, PFOR
SUBJECT: GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR AND LAHORE BY-ELECTION

REF: ISLAMABAD 9672

1. A CABINET MINISTER, WHO IS A PPP MEMBER, HAS INFORMED DCM THAT AT YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING, CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER, THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT KHAR IS NOW A MAJOR THREAT TO PPP/GOP HOLD ON THE PUNJAB. MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOP'S OVERKILL ACTIONS IN RECENT WEEKS AIMED AT ISOLATING KHAR, WHOIS CONTESTING A LAHORE BY-ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 19, HAVE ONLY SERVED TO BOOST KHAR'S IMAGE AND STRENGTH IN THE PUNJAB AND SAID THIS RECOGNIZED DURING CABINET MEETING DISCUSSION.
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KHAR'S POPULARITY IS NOW SUCH THAT CENTRAL MINISTERS

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SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE PPP CANDIDATE AND
AGAINST KHAR "CANNOT FIND TEN PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO THEM."

2. WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN AND WHATEVER IS THE RISK,
GOVERNMENT NOW OF VIEW IT HAS NO OPTION BUT TO
TOUGHT IT OUT WITH KHAR. MINISTER BELIEVES GOVERN-
MENT WILL FIND IT NECESSARY TO ARREST KHAR "IN THE
NEXT SEVERAL DAYS."
BYROADE

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
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